Yamunanagar and the Learned Counsels for the petitioners to attend a meeting in the office of Learned Additional Solicitor General at New Delhi on 9.8.2002 to work out the details of the solution in relation to various issues involved in the present court case. This case is listed for further hearing on 20.8.2002.

Tea extract injections for Cataract

2667. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tea extract injections help in delaying the onset of cataract;

(b) if so, the research undertaken in this regard especially in the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB); and

(c) the action proposed to propagate the findings for preventing blindness especially in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Tea has been shown to have anti-oxidative property and thus may help prevent cataract formation.

(b) Experiments carried out on rats at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) indicate cataract progression was significantly slowed down following injection of extracts of black and green tea. Green tea appears to have better effect than the black tea. Treatment with laser is useful in some cases of glaucoma, retinal diseases and post-operative opacity following cataract surgery.

(c) Effect of tea on formation or progression of cataract in humans has not yet been established. Appropriate action will be taken only after usefulness of tea in preventing progression of cataract is established.

Oral Insulin

2668. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oral insulin has been invented under the supervision of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research,

(b) whether it has been tested on human beings; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) According to CSIR, no research has been carried out on development of Oral Insulin.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Integrated system of Medical Treatment

2669. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any concrete steps to provide good modern allopathy and traditional integrated system of medical treatment to rural areas where nearly 80 crores of people live;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Primary Health Care Services, Reproductive and Child Health and Family Welfare Services are being provided in rural areas through an integrated system of 13711 Sub-centres, 22842 Primary Health Centres and 3043 Community Health Centres and about 21774 I.S.M. & H. dispensaries. Government has taken the following steps to improve health care services in rural areas of the country:

Under the State Health Systems Project, Community Health Centres and District Hospitals in some States are being upgraded; Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana/Basic Minimum Services Programme, funds are being released for repair and renovation of the public health infrastructure, procurement of drugs, consumables and contingencies etc.; With financial support for UNFPA, Area Development Projects are being implemented in certain States for strengthening the health delivery system; Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, Provision of equipments, medicines and vaccines; Repair and construction of OT/Labour Room/ upgrading of water & electric supply; Financial assistance for contractual, appointments/hiring of technical personnel; and Skill training of health functionaries etc. is being taken up. In addition to this, State Governments have been encouraged to set up Ayurvedic, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathic dispensaries to cater to the health needs of the rural population. A number of such dispensaries are already functioning in various States.